

A-LEVEL ECONOMICS

In this course, economic theory is applied to 'real world' current affairs questions such as:

- Should we get rid of the British pound and replace it with the single European currency (Euro)?
- What is the 'Credit Crunch' or the 'Budget Deficit' and how does it affect us?
- Should we provide more aid to poor countries?
- Should we protect U.K. jobs from foreign competition?
- Why does the U.K. import so much but export so little and does it matter?
- Do supermarkets give value for money or do they exploit the consumer and their suppliers?
- What is globalisation and why does it create such controversy?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of belonging to the European Union?
- What is the best way of reducing global warming?
- Should the taxpayer subsidise farmers?
- Are big firms better for society than many small competing ones?
- To what extent should governments interfere in the activities of firms?
- Why do poor countries find it so difficult to increase their prosperity?
- Is a 'strong' pound good for the U.K. economy?

ASSESSMENT

Examination questions are in the form of Multiple Choice or Data Response questions. The latter are usually based on newspaper articles relating to current economic events. These require relatively short written answers. There is no coursework.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

An interest in current affairs will make the study of this subject even more fascinating. A grade B or above in GCSE mathematics would be useful but is not essential. This is not a 'soft option' so a commitment to hard work is required.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

You have a wide choice. An Economics qualification is highly respected by universities and employers.

You could take a degree in Economics - all universities offer this subject. Economics is also an excellent foundation for many other higher education courses such as Business Studies, Geography, Politics and History. It also combines well with Mathematics or with Languages.

You could go directly into employment. Opportunities are very wide but Economics is particularly valued for careers in business management and finance.

COURSE CONTENT

The AS units are:

Unit 1:

The Capitalist (Free Market) Economic System. How it works and what are the problems it creates? e.g. inequality, pollution, 'Credit Crunch'.

Unit 2:

Managing the Economy. How to avoid the 'ups' and 'downs' of the economy with the associated problems of price inflation and unemployment.

The A2 units are:

Unit 3:

Business Economics. Examines the behaviour of different types of firms and their impact on consumers.

Unit 4:

International Trade/Globalisation; its benefits and problems/Economic Development.

HOW WILL THE STUDENT BENEFIT FROM STUDYING ECONOMICS?

The student of Economics will:

- Find current affairs easier to understand and more interesting.
- Acquire strong skills of analysis and evaluation, especially when addressing current affairs issues.
- Be able to find jobs more quickly and command higher starting salaries than most.
- Will become familiar with Business English, (particularly important for students from abroad).

MORE INFORMATION

To obtain a detailed specification of the course please go to <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/economics/Pages/default.aspx>

As this is a new subject for all who join the course, our Head of Economics, Mr Pienkowski can provide you with more information. You could arrange to attend a lesson and meet some current students.